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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/682,187	08/02/2001	Werner Knebel	21295/32	5266
29127	7590	12/24/2003	EXAMINER	
HOUSTON ELISEEVA 4 MILITIA DRIVE, SUITE 4 LEXINGTON, MA 02421				ESPLIN, DAVID B
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2851		

DATE MAILED: 12/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/682,187	KNEBEL, WERNER
	Examiner D. Ben Esplin	Art Unit 2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2003.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-3,6-8,10-14,16-18,20 and 22-32 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,6-8,12,20,22-27 and 30 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 2,3,10,11,13,14,16-18,28,29,31 and 32 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The objection to the drawings in the Office Action mailed 6/23/03 is withdrawn due to the replacement drawings received 11/26/03.

New objections:

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: FIG. 2, 26, 26a, and 2b. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The brief description of the drawings does not include newly added FIG. 2.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

The objections to the claims in the in Office Action mailed 6/23/03 are withdrawn in light of the changes made to the claims in the Response filed 11/26/03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The rejection of claims 3 and 4 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn due to the changes to the claims in the Response filed 11/26/03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 6-8, 12, 20, 22-25, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,483,103 to Engelhardt et al. (Engelhardt/Hay/Hoffman)

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

FIG. 1 of Engelhardt/Hay/Hoffman shows an optical arrangement for a confocal scanning microscope including a laser light source (col. 4 line 16) generating a light beam (light beam 6), means for spectral dispersion (prism 7) of the light beam in the detection beam path, means for selecting a definable spectral region of the light beam (optical component 4), and a single

detection apparatus (detector 3), wherein in order to influence the spectral region the spectrally dispersed light beam and the detection apparatus change their position relative to one another by shifting the optical component that forms the means for selecting along directions 8 and/or 9.

Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Engelhardt/Hay/Hoffman as applied to claims 1, 6-8, 12, 20, 22, 23-25, and 30 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,462,345 to Simon et al.

Although Engelhardt/Hay/Hoffman fails to teach of coupling light upon input into the scanning microscope using an acousto-optical tunable filter or acousto-optical beam splitter, Simon teaches that coupling input light into a scanning microscope using acousto-optical tunable filters was well known for reducing radiation loading (col. 2 lines 52-56 and col. 3 lines 43-52). So it would have been obvious to couple light being input into the microscope of Engelhardt/Hay/Hoffman using acousto-optical filters in order to reduce radiation loading.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 6-8, 12, 20, 22-27, and 30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16-18, 28, 29, 31, and 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Per the arguments of the applicant filed 11/26/03, the recitation of "a moveable single detection apparatus" is viewed to be a negative limitation, as is defined by MPEP § 2173.05(i). Thus, despite the use of the transitional phrase "comprising", which does not "exclude additional, unrecited elements" from falling within the scope of the claim, MPEP § 2111.03, the scope of the independent claims 1, 8, and 12 do not include optical arrangements with more than a single moveable detector. The acknowledged claims are deemed to contain allowable subject matter because they define an optical arrangement for selection and detection of a spectral region of a light beam including this single moveable detection apparatus, and a moveable optical component that is distinguishable over the prior art in that it is either located before the means for selecting a definable spectral region, or that it changes position with respect to this means by rotating. Such an optical arrangement, with the rest of the structure and function of these claims, is not found in the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

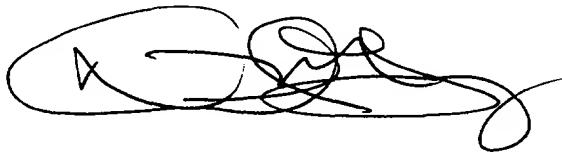
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to D. Ben Esplin whose telephone number is (703) 305-4022. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. (8am-4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russell E. Adams can be reached on (703) 308-2847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9318.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

DBE
DBE



David Gray
Primary Examiner